

Bering Sea - Western Interior Resource Management Plan



BSWI News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BLM to prepare Bering Sea - Western Interior Resource Management Plan

ANCHORAGE – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement for the Bering Sea-Western Interior planning area of Alaska. The Planning Area is located in western Alaska and encompasses approximately 62 million acres of land, including 10.6 million acres managed by the BLM. The planning area includes all lands south of the Central Yukon watershed to the southern boundary of the Kuskokwim River watershed, and all lands west of Denali National Park and Preserve to the Bering Sea, including Saint Lawrence, Saint Matthew and Nunivak islands.

The lands are currently managed under the 1981 *Southwest Planning Area Management Framework Plan* and portions of the 1986 *Central Yukon RMP* Record of Decision. The RMP will replace the existing 1981 plan and portions of the 1986 plan and make land use decisions for any previously unplanned public lands within the planning area.

A 150-day public scoping period for BLM-administered public lands in the planning area begins July 18, 2013. The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the planning process. The BLM invites the public to provide comments on issues and planning criteria.

The public is invited to provide information about the resources of the planning area and the importance of these resources. Although the BLM welcomes public comments at any time, the agency must receive comments by December 16, 2013 to be included in the Scoping Report. There are five ways to submit comments:

1. In person at public scoping meetings in communities within the planning area. The BLM will announce the meeting dates, times and specific locations at least 15 days in advance through local media, news releases and on the BLM website at <http://www.blm.gov/ak/planning/bswi>;
2. Via the website: <http://www.blm.gov/ak/planning/bswi>

3. Via fax: (907) 267-1267
4. By mail to the Anchorage Field Office, Attn: BSWI RMP, 4700 BLM Road, Anchorage, AK 99507; and,
5. By email at BSWI_RMP_COMMENT@blm.gov.

For more information about the Bering Sea-Western Interior planning process, contact the BLM at (907) 267-1246 or (800) 478-1263 (within Alaska).

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The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2012, activities on public lands generated \$4.6 billion in revenue, much of which was shared with the States where the activities occurred. In addition, public lands contributed more than \$112 billion to the U.S. economy and helped support more than 500,000 jobs.



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